

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

---

A NEW FLYING SQUIRREL FROM THE COAST OF  
ALASKA.

BY WILFRED H. OSGOOD.

---

Nearly all the resident birds and mammals of the coast region of southeastern Alaska belong to peculiar forms characterized by dark intensified colors. Among the few mammals that have thus far escaped description is the flying squirrel. It has been long known to occur there but, until recently, specimens have not reached any of our museums.

Some two years ago, while working in the region, I commissioned a trapper to secure specimens of flying squirrels for the Biological Survey and gave him instructions in preparing skins. As a result, a series of six well-prepared specimens have been recently received. These, as was expected, are quite different from any of the previously described forms. For the privilege of describing the new form I am indebted to Dr. C. Hart Merriam.

***Sciuropterus alpinus zaphæus*** subsp. nov.

*Type* from Helm Bay, Cleveland Peninsula, southeastern Alaska. ♀ ad. No. 136,137 U. S. National Museum, Biological Survey Collection. January 21, 1905. Cyrus Catt.

*General characters.*—Most similar to *Sciuropterus alpinus*; color much darker throughout; tail, sides of belly, orbital region, forearm, and upper sides of feet much more dusky.

*Color.*—Type: Upperparts from occiput to base of tail pale russet, between russet and wood brown; sides of head gray and dusky; the dusky, which is practically black, forms a line from the base of whiskers to and around the eye and thence becomes plumbeous gray to the posterior base of the ear; lower cheeks mixed whitish gray and dusky; lateral line black with scarcely any suggestion of brownish tinge; concealed hairs of under side of lateral line pure creamy white; upper side of forearm deep blackish brown continuous with and but slightly paler than lateral line; sides of throat grayish lightly mixed with dusky, becoming creamy buff in axillary region; a blackish spot just below lower lip; throat whitish, becoming creamy posteriorly; breast creamy buff faintly tinged with dusky, same color continuous down middle of belly; sides of belly and thence down under side of hind legs pale creamy heavily mixed with dusky producing a buffy gray effect; a small whitish area just in front of anal region; anal region pale russet mixed with dusky; hairs of upper side of tail bright brocoli brown subterminally, overlaid and nearly obscured by sooty black; under side of tail slightly more rufescent than upper and less heavily overlaid by sooty; under side of tail with an indistinct grayish median line; upper sides of fore and hind feet blackish brown.

*Skull.*—Practically as in *Sciuropterus alpinus*.

*Measurements.*—Type: Total length, 311; tail vertebræ, 133; hind foot, 42. Average of 6 adults: Total length, 307 (292–311); tail vertebræ, 144 (133–152); hind foot, 41 (40–42).\* Skull of type: Basilar length of Hensel, 32.3; occipito-nasal length, 41.4; zygomatic breadth, 26.2; constriction in front of postorbital processes, 8.3; median length of nasals, 12.8; upper toothrow, 8.2.

*Remarks.*—This form needs close comparison only with *S. alpinus*, which is represented in the Biological Survey Collection by at least four typical examples, two from Jasper House, Alberta, practically topotypes, and two from Stuart Lake, B. C. The most convenient characters for distinguishing it are the gray cheeks, the sooty feet, almost pure black lateral line, relatively dark forearm, and the heavy mixture of dusky on the sides of the belly. *S. a. fuliginosus*, *S. yukonensis*, and *S. oregonensis* have the underparts either so much paler or so much more rufescent as to require no comparison.

---

\*Total length and tail measurements are the metric equivalents of inches and fractions taken by the collector; hind foot measurements taken from dry specimen.